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TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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SUBJECT: Article on Finland and the United Nations

There is transmitted as an enclosure to this despatch a translation of an article entitled "Finland outside the United Nations" which appeared in "Suomen Sosialidemokraatti" for September 9, 1954 over the signature of Reinhold Sveto. This is a lucid and, one would think, convincing exposition of the reasons why from the Finnish point of view it is entirely illogical for the Soviet Union to oppose, through the exercise of its privilege under the unanimity rule in the Security Council, the admission of Finland to the United Nations.

It is interesting to point out that the writer of the article, who is now Social Democratic Party member in good standing, and who is liked and admired by party leaders although it is smilingly acknowledged that his points of view are highly individualistic, at one time tried very hard to see Finland's political problems in a light which would at least be acceptable to the Soviet Union. Always a left-wing Socialist, Mr. Sveto was in the immediate post-war period a member of the Socialist Unity Party, a puppet or satellite of the SKDL. His abandonment of that party and his return to the Social Democrats reflects disillusionment with the endeavor to find any basis for sincere collaboration, in the interest of Finland as a whole, with the Communists of this country. This article reflects the extent of Mr. Sveto's disillusionment with respect to the foreign policy behavior of the Soviet Union as well, in so far as this affects Finland.

Reinhold Sveto has had wide experience in international affairs. He was regarded as an expert on the League of Nations, and during the period 1944 to 1948 he served as Finland's Associate Minister for Foreign Affairs. From 1948 to 1951 he was Finnish Minister in Switzerland. He commands a good swashbuckling style and is usually well informed regarding the matters of which he speaks. For the foregoing reasons it is supposed that upon a proper occasion United States

representatives

HBWells/jas

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representatives in United Nations' meetings might possibly find it of advantage to make some use of portions of the text of the article attached herewith.

For the Minister:

*H. Bartlett Wells*

H. Bartlett Wells  
First Secretary of Legation

Enclosure: *Apk*

✓ Translation from "Suomen  
Sosialidemokraatti", Sept. 9, 1954.

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TRANSLATION

("Suomen Sosialidemokraatti", September 9, 1954)

Finland outside the United Nations

Now that the Soviet Union has adorned Helsinki with a new Embassy, a real palatial mission in which the Soviet Union is represented by Ambassador Lebedev, it would be very fitting if Moscow were once more to weigh the question of Finland's membership in the United Nations Organization.

The Soviet Union is directly obliged to do this by the wording of our Peace Treaty, the preamble of which, binding upon both parties, declares that the basis for friendly relations is formed by the circumstance that the Allied and United Powers are enabled "to support Finland's application to become a member of the United Nations, and also to adhere to any Convention concluded under the auspices of the United Nations."

This text, quoted word for word, makes it clear that as long as our neighbor does not fulfill all its juridical and political obligations, there will remain drawbacks which will cast a shadow over good Fenno-Soviet relations.

I have written about this matter earlier, <sup>I</sup> and now want to justify my attitude once more.

When the United Nations began its quarrelsome and un-unanimous activity, I too was one of those who thought that Finland need not yet hurry to participate in the activities of the United Nations. With a view to international policy, under the conditions of that time it seemed more pleasant to remain outside. But the more time went on, the more has our attitude toward this question changed.

The "cold war" converted the original abnormal situation into a pseudo-normal one, which froze the sound development of world policy for a long and, so far as we can now see, an indefinite period of time. Under conditions like this, which tend to become permanent, the continual isolation of Finland from an international organization of independent states has, in the long run, become both unnatural and wrong, as far as the Peace Treaty is concerned.

The situation has moreover come to look illogical and absurd after Finland and the Soviet Union have signed a Treaty of Friendship, because this Treaty too says that both parties concerned will work together for world peace within the framework of the principles of the United Nations.

If this is the case, Finland should naturally become a member of the United Nations on these grounds as well. Otherwise we shall

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not have an opportunity of pursuing independently, in an international forum, a policy of peace which would be in accordance with the Treaty of Friendship.

The situation furthermore becomes downright ludicrous because the Soviet Union is the very power which, in its poker game with the other great powers, prevents Finland's membership in the United Nations in violation of the intent of the Peace Treaty. A situation like this constitutes a definite stumbling-block in our relations with the Soviet Union.

We sincerely hope that the Soviet Government will abandon its past tactics at the expense of Finland and will seek out the best possible means of fulfilling the international obligations and promises contracted with reference to Finland. Our Treaty of Friendship guarantees in itself that Finland, as a member state of the United Nations, cannot in any way be in cahoots with such interests as may overtly or covertly be seeking war, and that it cannot support a world policy which might increase the dangers of war.

Reinhold Svento

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